



SAXBY CHAMBLISS



8th Congressional District, Georgia

1019 Longworth Building • Washington, DC 20515 • 800-234-GA08 (4208)

Dear Friend,

At the beginning of this Congress, the Republican majority established a legislative agenda centered on four issues that must be addressed in order to secure America's future for the 21st Century. That agenda includes bolstering our national security, excellence in education, strengthening retirement security by saving Social Security, and providing tax relief for working Americans and their families. While we made a number of successes in each of these areas, we also achieved a number of important victories that specifically helped Georgia.

In addition, at the beginning of this Congress, I was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve as Vice Chairman of the House Budget Committee. This has proven to be an exciting role for me, as balancing the budget and reducing wasteful federal spending have been top priorities of mine since I came to Washington. Most importantly, my role as Vice Chairman has allowed me to serve as an even stronger voice for Georgia at the negotiating table.

With regard to Georgia's agricultural community, I worked with my colleagues to secure \$6 billion dollars in the fiscal year 2000 budget for crop insurance reform. The House Agriculture Committee also worked to craft a meaningful crop insurance reform bill that was passed by the House last year. I am hopeful that the Senate will present their bill this year so we can send a final bill to the President.

We were able to go to bat for several defense programs critical to Georgia's defense community and our country's national defense, including the F-22, the C-130J, and the C-17 programs. The F-22 program came under severe assault largely by folks who didn't understand its importance. However, we educated our colleagues and worked closely to ensure the program's viability.

Given the massive cuts our military has encountered under the current White House, we worked to increase defense spending and improve the quality of life for our service troops with pay increases and increased funding for housing facilities and military construction projects.

I remain committed to building on these achievements as we finish our business for the 106th Congress. We will continue working to save Social Security for seniors who need it today and our children and grandchildren who will need it tomorrow. Despite a veto from the President last year, we will keep working to provide tax relief for working Americans. And we will continue our work to return more education dollars, decision-making and flexibility to our local communities who know our students best.

It is a pleasure to serve on the House Budget, Agriculture, and Armed Services Committees as we work to protect the interests of Georgia and America. Please take a look at the information in this report that highlights a number of important achievements during the first session of the 106th Congress. Your input and guidance is encouraged and necessary as we enter the final stretch of this Congress.

Very truly yours,

Saxby
Saxby Chambliss



Chambliss joins Speaker Dennis Hastert and other members in highlighting the agenda to secure America's future.

Helping America's Children

Georgia's school children deserve the best education available and U.S. Representative Saxby Chambliss has supported a number of bills that will help preserve the future of today's children and tomorrow's leaders. A few of these include, The Educational Flexibility Partnership Act (Ed-Flex), The Higher Education Act, and the Equitable Child Care Resolution. Each of these initiatives will give parents, teachers and administrators more flexibility in deciding what is best for their children.

"I have listened to school administrators, teachers and parents in Georgia's 8th District about their education needs. One of the complaints I often hear is that the federal government requires schools to spend too much time and effort on confusing regulations for education aid," said Chambliss. "Our schools and communities need the flexibility to make good decisions that are in the best interest of our children. Ed-Flex will ensure that our schools have the resources and the flexibility they need to help each child reach their full potential."

The Ed-Flex program was authorized in 1992 and given a test-run as a demonstration project in 12 states. In exchange for increased accountability for results, Ed-flex provides greater state and local flexibility in using federal education funds to support locally designed, comprehensive school improvement efforts. Ed-Flex provides ample opportunities for schools to get waivers from burdensome regulations to meet their individual needs. Ed-Flex passed and signed into law in April 1999. Ed-Flex will allow schools to teach our children more by cutting Washington red tape and spending our federal education dollars where the children need it, not where bureaucrats 2,000 miles away say it should go.

Georgia Education Projects funded in 1999:

• Crawford County School System	\$250,000
• Berrien County School System	\$500,000
• Middle Georgia College	\$250,000
• Georgia Education for Homeless Children	\$770,417
• Georgia Safe and Drug-Free Schools	\$11,696,745
• Federal Pell Grants for Georgia	\$189,300,000
• Education for the Disadvantaged	\$230,774,646
• Vocational and Adult Education	\$45,884,537

Congressional Sportsmen Continue Fight for Outdoorsmen across America

By Chairman Saxby Chambliss

Along with protecting the right to hunt, fish, trap, and pursue America's great outdoors, the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus is also committed to keeping our environment vibrant and healthy for our wildlife and for future generations to enjoy. But achieving these goals requires a daily battle of education, communication, and picking the right issues to engage in as a Caucus.

With an all-time high membership of more than 270 bipartisan House members, the Caucus has a large and diverse pool of members to trumpet our issues. The value of our size is the ability to provide a large, active group a vehicle with which to support the protection of our outdoor heritage.

As chairman, I believe the common thread of support within the Caucus is as strong today as ever – for our past accomplishments and our future goals.

Our track record speaks for itself – from the protection of 2nd Amendment Rights, the ability to strengthen the integrity of the Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration Programs, to the promotion of critical programs for wildlife habitat enhancement like the Conservation Reserve Program just to name a few.

America's sportsmen are stewards of our natural resources. We want game and non-game species to thrive to ensure that future generations will have the same opportunities that we have to bond with the great outdoors.

There is no doubt that uninformed folks continue to spread misinformation about sportsmen. They argue not on facts, but by employing scare tactics and demagoguery.

President Theodore Roosevelt would be appalled by current assaults on sportsmen. Roosevelt founded the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1903 with the firm understanding that hunting, fishing and trapping are proven

wildlife conservation management tools that enhance habitat while providing recreational value.

Sportsmen and women throughout the country should pull together with industry and conservation organizations to help us prepare for the battles ahead. At a time when the median age of hunters is at an all-time high and radical environmental groups are becoming increasingly aggressive, we must be prepared and equipped to win the debate not only in Washington, but at the grassroots level in every state.

To find out how the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus is working to preserve and promote the traditional rights of Americans to hunt, fish and pursue outdoor activities, please visit our website at: www.house.gov/chambliss/sports.html



Chambliss, Co-Chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus takes aim and discusses issues important to sportsmen during the Great Congressional Shoot Out.

What were Chairman Chambliss' 1999 legislative accomplishments?

- Awarded the 1999 Safari Club International Federal Legislator of the Year
- Hosted the first ever Georgia Sportsmen Roundtable discussion
- Hosted the first Wildlife Habitat Programs Farm Field Day
- Led effort to defeat anti-trapping measures
- Established Bowhunting Task Force, Waterfowl

Task Force and created a Whip Organization for the Caucus

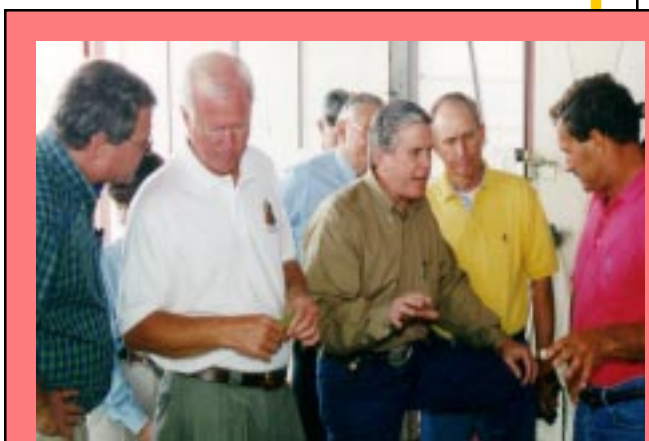
- Authored pro-sportsman language in the Conservation and Reinvestment Act
- Fought to improve the integrity of Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Trust funds

Helping America's Farmers through Crop Insurance Reform

In 1999, the House passed landmark legislation to reform the Federal Crop Insurance program. To begin that process, the House Budget Committee successfully secured \$6 billion dollars to fund a revamped crop insurance program. The current program is a one-size-fits-all plan that is not economical and does not provide adequate and affordable coverage for America's farmers. The House Agriculture Committee worked diligently to pass sweeping reforms included in the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 1999, H.R. 2599. Specifically, this bill:

- Strengthens the farm safety net by making crop insurance more accessible to growers, reducing the need for unbudgeted ad hoc disaster assistance;
- Helps farmers protect against declining prices and farm income by making more affordable insurance coverage that protects farmers not only against crop losses, but declining prices as well;
- Makes revenue insurance, including Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), Crop Revenue Coverage, and other policies developed (such as cost of production insurance) more affordable so farmers can better protect the bottom line;
- For the first time, offers livestock ranchers risk management tools to combat the adverse financial impact of volatile weather and markets;
- Helps farmers protect more of what they grow by limiting any reduction in insurable yields due to crop losses from natural disasters. (Under this bill, 60 percent of the county's average yield would be the lowest yield assigned to a farmer for a crop year when actual production history is calculated to arrive at insurable yields.)
- Instead of settling for coverage that insures 50 percent of yield and 55 percent of the crop's market value, farmers will be offered area yield insurance that carries a higher combination of yield and price protection.

The Agriculture Risk Protection Act passed the House on September 29, 1999, by voice vote and will hopefully be approved by the Senate during this session of Congress.



Chambliss and Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest tour the 8th district's farm community during the 1999 Farm Tour.

Chambliss and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Conduct Georgia Farm Tour

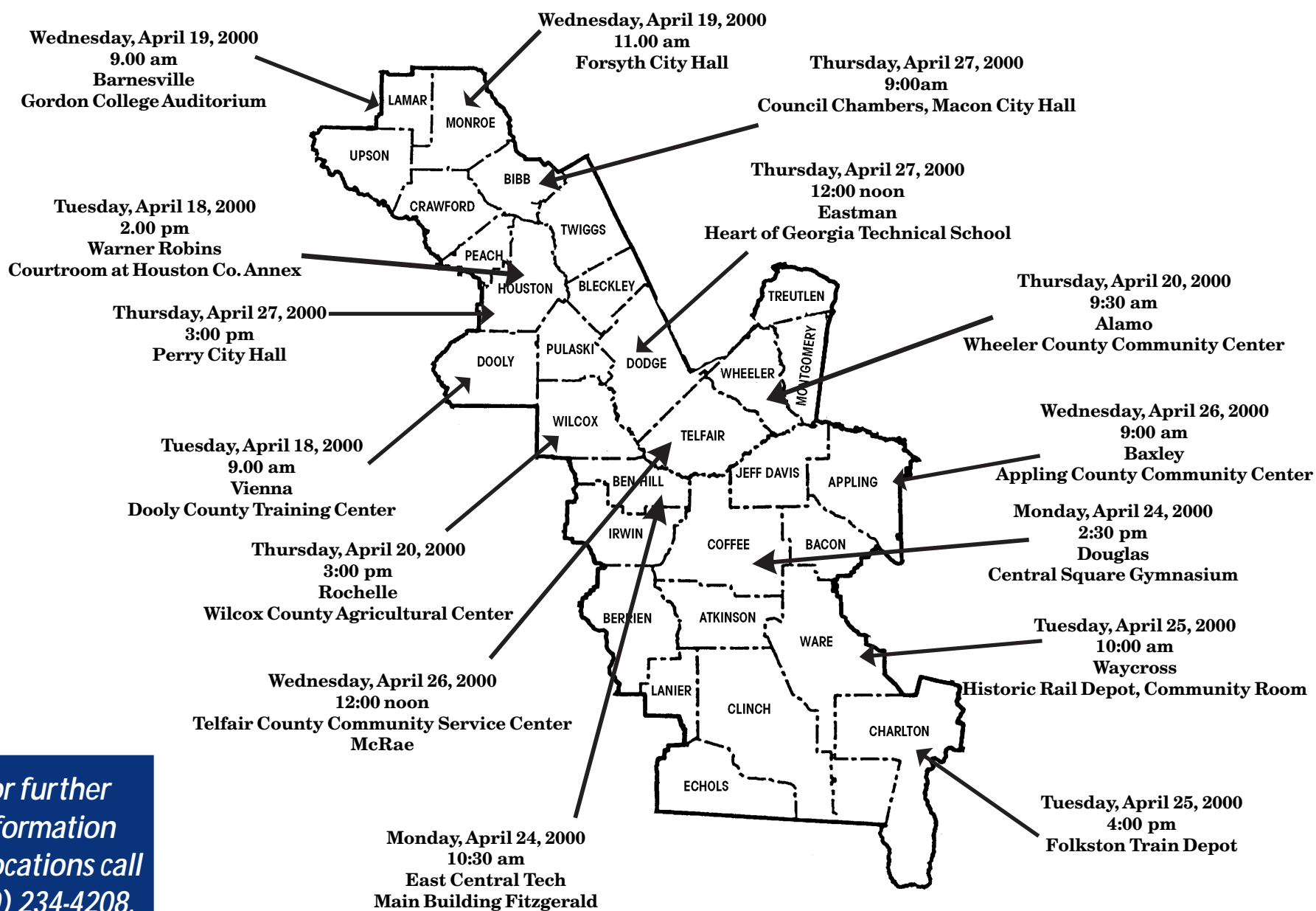
On June 26, 1999, as part of his annual Georgia Agriculture Tour, Congressman Saxby Chambliss invited House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest to participate in a day of showcasing farms and agricultural products throughout middle and south central Georgia.

The 1999 tour gave Georgia farmers and agribusiness leaders the opportunity to showcase and educate Chairman Combest on the importance of agriculture to middle and south central Georgia, the diversity of Georgia crops, the unique problems facing farmers in the Southeast, and the need for a workable crop insurance program.

"The importance of properly educating the Chairman on southern agriculture and its impact on Georgia's economy cannot be understated," said Chambliss. "Especially when Georgia products such as peanuts, cotton, and tobacco are continually attacked in Washington. The tour offered an excellent opportunity for the state's agricultural community to voice their needs for a workable crop insurance program by speaking directly to Chairman Combest."

The Congressmen met at Lane Packing in Fort Valley to focus on peaches and pecans and then visited Coffee County to learn more about cotton, peanuts, tobacco, timber/forestry, fruits, vegetables, and poultry.

Tell Congressman Chambliss What's On Your Mind During Spring Town Hall Tour • April 18–27, 2000



For further
information
on locations call
(800) 234-4208.

Dear Friend:

In an effort to continuously improve my constituent service operation, I am asking you to provide me with valuable feedback based on your contact with my office.

Please complete the back of this page, clip it off and mail it in a stamped #10 envelope to:

Congressman Saxby Chambliss
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

In the event we have any questions, please provide the following:

Name _____
Address _____
Email _____

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Saxby

The offices of U.S. Representative Saxby Chambliss are here to serve you.
Please feel free to contact us if you need assistance with the federal government.

Washington Office

1019 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202)225-6531
(202)225-3013 (fax)

Macon Office

Street Address:

682 Cherry Street
Suite 300

Macon, Georgia, 31201

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6258
Macon, Georgia, 31208
(800) 234-4208 (toll free)
(912) 752-0800
(912) 752-0888 (fax)

Waycross Office

Street Address:

208 Tebeau Street

Waycross, Georgia, 31501

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 1408
Waycross, Georgia, 31502
(912) 287-1180
(912) 287-1182 (fax)



Useful Telephone Numbers



Georgia Medical Assistance	404-656-4479
Immigration & Naturalization Service	800-375-5283
Internal Revenue Service	800-829-1040
Medicare Fraud	800-447-8477
Medicare Part B	800-727-0827
Palmetto Government Benefits	800-213-5452
Small Business Administration	800-827-5722
Social Security	800-772-1213
U.S. Census	800-471-9424
USDA Farm Service Agency	706-546-2266
Veterans Benefits	800-827-1000

You may also visit the
Eighth Congressional District Website at:

<http://www.house.gov/chambliss>

or via email:

saxby.chambliss@mail.house.gov

★Congressman Saxby Chambliss' Constituent Service Survey★

1) What did you contact Congressman Chambliss' office about? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ To express your views on a federal issue
- ☐ To request a flag, tour information, or a copy of a bill
- ☐ To meet with Saxby or invite him to an event
- ☐ To request help with a government problem

2) Did you contact Congressman Chambliss' (Check all that apply):

- ☐ District office(s)
- ☐ Washington office

3) Did the Chambliss office respond promptly? ☐ Yes ☐ No

4) Was the staff courteous you? ☐ Yes ☐ No

5) Were your concerns addressed in a timely manner? ☐ Yes ☐ No

6) Would you contact Saxby to help you in the future? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7) How did you originally contact Saxby with your request?

- ☐ Letter
- ☐ Telephone Call
- ☐ Met with staff
- ☐ E-mail

8) Please submit additional comments below or in a separate letter:

Congress Takes Steps To Repay Debt To Veterans

Provides Largest VA Health Care Increase in History

During the first session of the 106th Congress, the House passed several bills that will improve the quality of life for our nation's veterans. In 1999, Congress provided the largest increase in history for veteran's health care, \$1.7 billion, mandated that access to nursing home care for seriously disabled service-connected veterans and Purple Heart recipients and military retirees be provided greater priority to health care services, and increased military retirement payments to seriously disabled veterans previously subject to dollar for dollar offset against military retirement pay.

With the new millennium upon us, Congress recognized the need to improve the veteran's health care system. This bill requires the VA to maintain its long-term care program and to increase both home and community-based long-term care and respite care. It establishes conditions and limitations under which the VA can close an obsolete, highly inefficient hospital and re-invest savings in establishing new outpatient clinics and other improved services for veterans in the affected area. Specific authority is provided for priority VA care of veterans who sustained an injury in combat and were awarded the Purple Heart. The VA is authorized to establish and pay reasonable emergency care costs to service-connected and low-income veterans who have no health insurance or other medical coverage and rely on VA care. Congress is working to eliminate waste and abuse in the Department of Veterans Affairs. The House Veterans' Affairs Committee pushed for a General Accounting Office (GAO) study that revealed that the VA is wasting \$1 million each day on unneeded hospital buildings. Under the Millennium Healthcare Act, these funds will be spent on direct healthcare.

Another bill currently before Congress, which Cong. Saxby Chambliss has co-sponsored, is the **Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act, HR 2966**. This bill restores adequate earned health care promised to all military retirees by allowing participation in FEHBP, CHAMPUS after age 65+ or TRICARE.

The new millennium should not be a time of fear or concern for our nation's veterans. It should be a time for America to remember its promises and keep its commitments to the nation's veterans. The American people should take this opportunity to renew our pledge to those who upheld America's time honored values, duty, honor, and country which have been exemplified by America's veterans in this century. Our veterans will continue to receive our honor, gratitude, and care. We will not let them be forgotten.



Chambliss discusses commitment to veterans issues with Veterans.

Providing Budget Leadership Stopping the raid on Social Security, Paying Down the Debt

Financial discipline in Washington reached a new level in 1999 as Congress, for the first time in over a generation, stopped the raid on Social Security and made a sizable downpayment on the national debt with a conservative, common-sense approach to the nation's budget.

As Vice-Chairman of the House Budget Committee, Congressman Saxby Chambliss' priorities are to ensure a balanced federal budget, shrinking the size of the federal government, and reducing wasteful Washington spending. The key to establishing these sound budget principles is stopping the 30-year raid on Social Security.

It is no secret that Americans, especially senior citizens, have witnessed the annual raiding of Social Security surpluses for new government spending programs. This practice was, and is, immoral and un-American. For the first time ever in 1999, the House of Representatives passed legislation that restores



Vice Chairman Chambliss discusses the budget resolution at a meeting of the House Budget Committee.

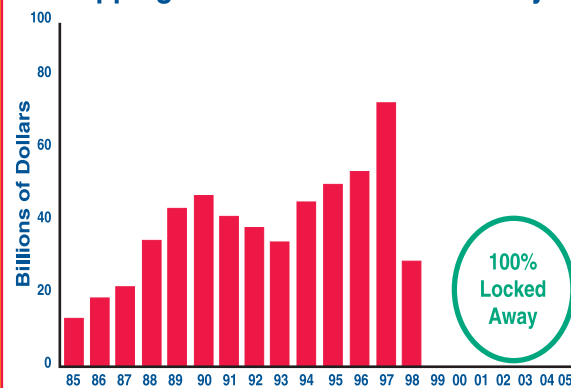
honesty and accountability in the federal budget by mandating that Social Security proceeds can only fund Social Security benefits and not new spending programs.

Not spending the Social Security surplus achieves two worthy principles of conservative government, as it provides honest retirement security for the millions of Americans who paid into Social Security, and it allows the government to pay down even more of its na-

tional debt.

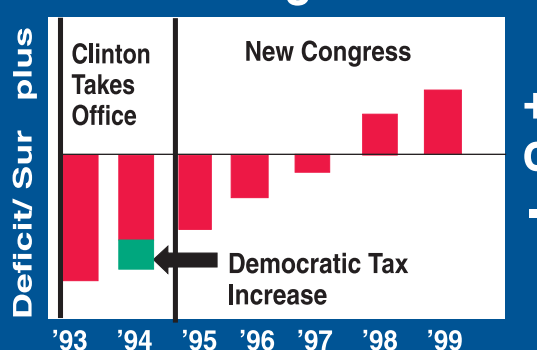
One may be surprised to learn that 2000 will mark the third straight year Congress pays down the national debt. A \$51 billion payment was made in 1998, which was followed by over \$100 billion in payments in 1999. A major priority during the coming year is to work with colleagues on the Budget Committee to produce legislation that will zero out the public national debt by 2015.

Stopping the Raid on Social Security

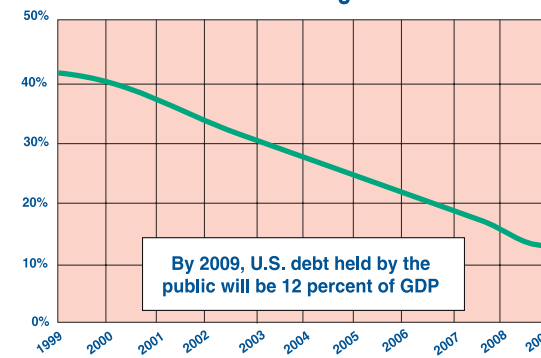


Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Budget



U.S. Debt Held by the Public Goes Down as a Percentage of GDP



Prepared by the House Committee on the Budget.

Strengthening America's Military

Congress again worked to Secure America's Future by ensuring peace of mind and security by providing support for a strong national defense. America's armed forces continue to be undermanned, over-extended, and suffering the strain of too many years of "doing more with less." The military is 40% smaller now than the successful force of Operation Desert Storm, and operational commitments around the world have increased 300%. More troops are being sent around the world to perform more missions with fewer resources.

For example, the Navy is decommissioning ships faster than they are being replaced. The Marine Corps is flying the wings off of aircraft that are almost 40 years old. The Air Force and the Army are running short on missiles and ammunition. It is impossible for a modern military force to remain effective over the long term when critical weapon systems must be cannibalized to keep other equipment operational.

The combination of declining defense resources and increased overseas commitments has created a crisis for our military resulting in a diminished quality of life for our young men and women in uniform, a reduction in

the ability of our troops to train for and execute their primary combat missions, delays in equipment modernization and repair, and grave recruitment and retention problems.

In 1999, Congress helped rebuild America's military forces and boost morale by providing a 4.8 percent pay raise to the men and women who bravely serve our nation; significantly enhancing the military retirement system; adding more than \$6 billion to the President's request for critical readiness, training and modern-

ization programs to better ensure that our forces will maintain their technological edge into the 21st century; funding \$3.7 billion for developing and fielding effective theater and national missile defenses to protect us from missile attacks; funding \$846.3 million for the military to continue the fight against the scourge of illegal drugs; establishing a Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs to provide comprehensive analysis and broader understanding of Chinese military affairs and strategy; funding \$475.5 million for the Cooperative Threat Reduction program to accelerate the dismantlement of former Soviet strategic offensive arms that threaten the United States.



Chambliss flies in a B-1 Bomber with members of the 116th Bomb Wing of the Georgia Air National Guard.

Honoring one of America's Heroes: Hank Aaron

On Tuesday, October 19, 1999, Congressman Chambliss led an effort in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor one of America's greatest baseball players, and humanitarians former Atlanta Braves player and "all time Home Run King" Henry "Hank" Aaron, 25 years after Hank Aaron hit his historic 715th homerun to surpass Babe Ruth's career home run record.

Although Hank Aaron is most widely known as a baseball legend, his Chasing the Dream Foundation which provides opportunities to help children age 9 to 12 achieve their goals, has made a significant difference to many young people in America. "There is no one more deserving than Hank Aaron to receive recognition from the Congress," said Chambliss, the sponsor of House Resolution 279, during a news conference. "He captivated baseball fans in Georgia and across America and taught us to follow our dreams. Through his hard work and perseverance on the baseball field and his commitment to young people and his community, he has earned a permanent place in sports history and American society."



Members of Congress honor baseball legend Hank Aaron with House Resolution 279 at the Capitol.

8th District Congressional Office

1019 Longworth HOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6531

682 Cherry Street
Suite 300
Macon, Georgia 31201
(912) 752-0800

208 Tebeau Street
Waycross, GA 31501
(912) 287-1180

Toll Free: (800) 234-4208 (GA08)
<http://www.house.gov/chambliss/>

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Sally Chambliss
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